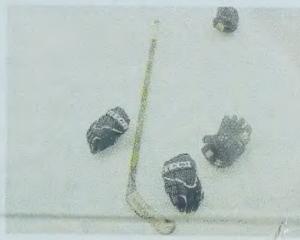


## U of A hockey expert says violence has always been part of the game

Jane Hurley

**W**hen violence erupts on the ice during Canada's favourite game, there are those who love it and want more, and those who decry it. Either way, invariably the question gets asked: is hockey becoming more violent?



Violence in hockey has a long history

Absolutely not, says Dan Mason, a business of hockey expert at the University of Alberta. "I don't think the game is any more violent today than it was in the past," he says. "The problem with today's hockey is that you have bigger, faster, stronger players, so the severity of the injuries is greater, and when they hit each other, they're more likely to hurt each other."

Media and technology play a big role as well. Incidents are magnified more today, thanks to action filmed from multiple angles, super slow-motion and instant replays, he says.

Mason says the media attention given to the hit dished out by Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara on Montreal Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty in early March had people who don't even watch hockey taking an interest in the incident.

"Thanks to the media, we've seen that hit over and over again," said Mason. "Yet on YouTube there are many examples of egregious behaviours by hockey players and violence in the NHL that happened in the past that were equally violent but were not treated the same way by the public."

Continued on page 2

## Honorary degree recipients inspire, advocate and build

Folio Staff

**T**he University of Alberta will honour 12 inspiring individuals with honorary degrees this June.

"Each of these honorary degree recipients inspires us with their dedication to excellence in learning, discovery and citizenship, here at home and across the globe," said Chancellor Linda Hughes.

The following 12 recipients of the university's highest honour will deliver addresses during convocation ceremonies at Augustana Campus in Camrose on June 5 and in Edmonton June 7 to 15.

Craig Kielburger, founder of the international children's charity Free the Children and co-founder of Me to We, a social enterprise which is designed to help support Free the Children, is a leading Canadian children's rights activist who empowers young people in the developed world to make a difference. One of the youngest recipients of the Order of Canada, he will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 2:30 p.m. on June 5 during centenary celebrations

at the U of A's Augustana Campus in Camrose.

Ron Triffo was instrumental in transforming Stantec Inc. from a private regional civil engineering firm to one of North America's largest public multi-disciplined engineering and architectural design firms. He is chair of Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures and a past chair of the Alberta Economic Development Authority and ATB Financial. A founding director of the Consulting Engineers of Alberta and a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, he will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree

at 3 p.m. on June 7 at the North Campus convocation ceremony.

Palagummi Sainath is a writer and journalist who has been described by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen as "one of the world's great experts on famine and hunger." His stories and photographs have brought the world's attention to issues of poverty and injustice. Rural affairs editor of *The Hindu* since 2004, he has trained journalists in the poorest regions of India's countryside. A recipient of more than 35 national and international awards including the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay prize, he will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree at 3 p.m. on June 8.

Joe Schlesinger, a veteran foreign correspondent and one of Canada's finest television journalists, is a compassionate and articulate chronicler of the human condition. Respected for work that elevated pure journalism to an art form, he is the recipient of many awards including three Gemini Awards, 18 Gemini nominations and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Journalism Foundation. A member of the Order of Canada, he will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree at 10 a.m. on June 8.

Continued on page 3



(L-R) Bunny Ferguson, Austin Mardon, Karen Luker, Ron Triffo, Greg Mortenson and Charlie Kakotok Evalik to receive honorary degrees in June.

## 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES TRADESHOW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 | 9am-3pm

# folio

## Volume 48 Issue 16

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folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the university community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. folio is published 23 times per year.

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Please keep my name, or  
 Remove my name from the folio list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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No response means the University of Alberta assumes an individual wishes to remain on the mailing list.

# Helmholtz-Alberta partnership takes next step

Brian Murphy

**U**niversity of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera signed an agreement in Germany April 8 that paves the way for future collaboration in the research fields of energy, the environment and possibly health care.

Samarasekera was in Berlin with German representatives of the Helmholtz Alberta Initiative—a collaborative research program developed to look at more sustainable technologies for Alberta's oilsands—to sign a research consortium agreement that formalizes the partnership. The Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres is an umbrella organization representing 16 research centres across Germany. The Germans researchers in this association are combining their long history of developing coal-mining technology with the U of A's oilsands expertise. The U of A has close to 50 oilsands research pro-

grams currently underway.

"With the legal framework of the agreement now in place, industry partners in the Canadian oilsands who have been watching our developing collaboration with interest will begin to add to this collaboration—heightening possibilities even further," said Samarasekera.

Jürgen Mlynek, president of the Helmholtz Association, says Alberta offers geological conditions that are very interesting for German researchers. "Our specialists will test new methods for the temporary storage of greenhouse gases and for generating power from geothermal energy," he said.

Since the HAI agreement first took form in 2009, there has been much sharing between U of A research teams and their German counterparts. Stefan Scherer, the U of A's HAI liaison, says 45 researchers from the university met with their counterparts at the Helmholtz Centre in Potsdam, Germany, in March.

**With the legal framework of the agreement now in place, industry partners in the Canadian oilsands who have been watching our developing collaboration with interest will begin to add to this collaboration—heightening possibilities even further."**

Indira Samarasekera

"The particular focus of their joint research will include carbon-capture sequestering technology, deep geothermal energy, tailings-pond reclamation and improving water quality," said Scherer.

The U of A and Helmholtz are also looking closely at expanding their collaboration into medical research, Scherer says, and that the HAI partners are a good fit for future study of infectious diseases and virology. "The U of A's Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology has been up and running for almost a year now. That puts us at the forefront in that field of research

in North America and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig holds the same status in Europe," he said.

In the wrap-up to her Berlin visit, Samarasekera looked beyond the breakthrough technologies she expects from the current teams of researchers working hard in Germany and at the U of A.

"Together, we will train future generations of engineers, scientists, business leaders, policy makers and technologists who will be needed to put these discoveries and innovations into practise," she said. ■

## Undergraduate teaching award winners see 'bigger picture'

Jamie Hanlon

**W**hen it comes to selecting winners for the University of Alberta's annual Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, it's not easy choosing the best of the best, says Elisabeth Le, chair of the University Teaching Awards Committee.

"To figure in that very select group, it is not sufficient to just receive top evaluations from one's students year after year," said Le. "A lot more is required for a U of A teaching award."

Le notes that the winners repeatedly demonstrate a number of attributes that made them worthy of this year's awards.

Participating in teaching improvement initiatives and a willingness to take risks, becoming involved in curriculum development and helping

students to develop into critically thinking, socially engaged citizens, are some of the key criteria in being chosen for the award.

The awards, whose recipients were announced last week, recognize excellence in undergraduate academic staff teaching in four categories: continuing academic staff, academic staff (lecturers and sessional instructors), early career (first five years) and a collaborative/ teaching unit awards (two or more instructors).

"These qualities demonstrate that awardees pay attention to the bigger picture and make sure that their students do so as well," said Le. "This year, this is particularly evident with the recipients of the teaching unit award."

The group who was the recipients of this year's teaching unit award winner consists of Lili Liu, chair of the Department of Occupational

Therapy; the Department of Industrial Design's Robert Lederer and Greig Rasmussen; Cheryl Sadowski and Lisa Guirguis, from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Department of Computing Science's Eleni Stroulia and Ioannis Nikolaidis.

"Thanks to this teaching unit, students specializing in very different disciplines have experienced how the respect of others and value of their work benefits all by resulting in a better quality service or product," said Le.

The remaining 2011 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award winners are:

### Rutherford Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Kim Fordham, Augustana Campus
- Lise Gotell, Women's Studies Program, Faculty of Arts
- Suzanne Kresta, Department of

Chemical and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

- Mitchell McInnes, Faculty of Law
- Janet Scott Hoyt, Department of Music, Faculty of Arts
- Nesé Yuksel, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

### William Hardy Alexander Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Anne Boerger, Campus Saint-Jean
- Lisa Prichard, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

### Provost's Awards for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Dan Barreda, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and the Faculty of Science
- John Nychka, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. ■

## Violence part of the good ol' hockey game

Violence in hockey is, and always has been, part of the game, says Mason, who calls hockey a "collision sport," principally because of the speed at which the game is played. It's inevitable, therefore, says Mason, that "there are always going to be collisions and players whose tempers are going to flare and the possibility of violent behaviour on the ice."

Moreover, he says, fans of the game enjoy the sport for different reasons.

"Some people enjoy hockey because of the violence, and others appreciate the aesthetics—the skating, the skill and speed—but they are all bound up together, and that's critical for the NHL in terms of marketing and branding its product," says Mason, adding that research studies have shown that the more violent the game, the bigger the attendance.

"The NHL knows that violence is its bread and butter, so it has to create an environment where there is going to be aggressive play," he says.

Furthermore, violence in sport is nothing new, says Mason; almost all of the popular team sports we know today evolved in the mid-to-late 19th century from the British school system where

sports like rugby, which began American football, and soccer were played. He says these sports, rough at best, became even more so as urbanization increased.

"Men who worked the land showed their manliness by how they worked in an agrarian environment, but with the move to the city, it was harder to prove one's manliness if you worked as a bank clerk, for example," he said. "Sport became a way through which men and boys could show that they were men."

Hockey was no different. Mason says news coverage of one of those early games describes players ramming each other's heads into the boards, and one player pinning another player's head down on the ice by placing his stick across his neck and kneeling on each end of the stick.

As interest grew in this most manly of sports, athletic associations, founded by Canada's monied elite, took root to control the game and keep the working classes out.

"The upper and middle classes in the larger urbanized areas took a leadership role in organizing the events, so hockey was the exclusive preserve of the amateur associations in Canada," said Mason.

*Continued from page 1*

"Then the sport became more popular, with more people—and more classes of people—playing, and issues arose about the control of the sport and perceptions about why people were playing it."

Today the NHL markets the greatest game on Earth as one of the fastest, most ferocious, most manly and aggressive games to an audience that hasn't changed much since the 19th century, though Mason says the game itself is "not even close to the same sport today."

He adds that, despite some of the spectacular hits and jaw-dropping fisticuffs, hockey is more popular than ever. "However, as an entertainment option there has been fragmentation of the market with many more things vying for our attention."

"Still, few things unite—or ignite—Canadians like hockey." ■

**The NHL knows that violence is its bread and butter, so it has to create an environment where there is going to be aggressive play."**

Dan Mason



Dan Mason

# U of A faculty and alumni honoured at Mayor's Celebration

Isha Thompson

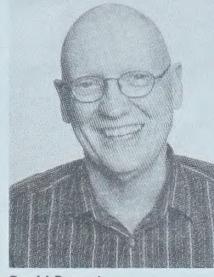
The Mayor's Celebration of the Arts is an evening for every background and any age—the only requirement is that you have a sincere appreciation of the arts. The 24th edition of the annual awards ceremony took place April 11 and both alumni and faculty from the Faculty of Arts received some of the top awards.

U of A drama professor emeritus Charles Thomas Peacocke took home the Atco Gas award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement, one of the most anticipated recognitions of the evening. Peacocke, who also received the Order of Canada in

1995, is not only known for having an influence on the majority of the city's acting community, but also as a man with a big heart.

"I would like to be remembered as someone who cares," said Peacocke in a tribute video that played for the audience. He fondly reflected on his calling for the stage taking place in 1951 when he enrolled at the U of A and took his first drama course, which introduced him to Studio Theatre.

"It was a great enlightenment to me to see that one could spend a



David Barnet

career doing this sort of thing, doing something you loved."

Current Faculty of Arts drama professor David Barnet said he was thrilled to see his former colleague take home the award. Barnet was also recognized for his role as artistic director of GeriActors and Friends, which won the Telus Courage to Innovate award.

GeriActors and Friends is an intergenerational theatre company that has recently created a lineup of programs, including a collaboration with Rapid

Fire Theatre for a comedy improv workshop for seniors.

Barnet says he was surprised and excited to hear he was getting an award, and was thrilled to be a part of the event that puts a spotlight on the Edmonton arts community.

"It is very important that the arts is celebrated and acknowledged," says Barnet.

Faculty of Arts

alumna and writer Myrna Kostash received the City of Edmonton Book Prize for her historical account in the *Prodigal Daughter: A Journey to Byzantium*. Accompanied by a cheque for \$10,000, the prize has now become one of the most lucrative book prizes in the country.

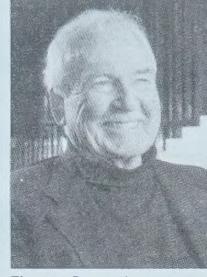
Reaching out to Edmonton's youth and encouraging their participation in theatre is something Arlen

Konopaki is especially passionate about. The 26-year-old is the associate artistic director of Rapid Fire Theatre, which specializes in improvised comedy, including a class specifically for teenagers.

"I think the great thing about improv is that it attracts a young audience, which is lacking in a lot of theatres across Canada," says Konopaki, who won the Northlands Award for

an Emerging Artist, a recognition for an artist who demonstrates talent and accomplishment at the beginning of their professional career.

"It was a big honour. I knew I was in good company with the other nominees and past recipients so I was really pleased," says Konopaki on his reaction to the win. "It is nice that we get one night a year when the city at large focuses on [the arts]."



Thomas Peacocke

## Faculty of Education partners with African university to strengthen ties to the community

Jamie Hanlon

The University of Alberta's Faculty of Education is partnering with Tanzania's Mzumbe University to help the African institution in the development of its strategic plans and to strengthen its relationship with the community—both private and public sectors.

This partnership is the result of a collaborative engagement between the African Union of Universities and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Faustin Kamuzora and Magishi Mgasa, two of Mzumbe University's senior administrators, are spending two weeks at the U of A to learn about its strategic planning methods and how the university translates research innovation to private enterprise through TEC Edmonton.

"TEC Edmonton has quite a good program of commercialization and incubation," said George Richardson, assistant dean in the faculty's Office of International Initiatives. "We've got Faustin and Magishi spending a day-and-a-half with TEC Edmonton, looking at the projects they're working on and the strategies for engaging the private sector."

Aside from meetings with TEC Edmonton, the visitors to the U of A will meet with senior

university administrators to gather information on the university's strategic planning process and discuss how to use the information to develop a plan that fits the Tanzanian context. Richardson says that some of the same policies and practices for developing and working with external stakeholders will be helpful to them in achieving their goals.

Mgasa says they are hoping to

they'll already have the exposure of working together with the different stakeholders."

Kamuzora noted that what they take back from the U of A will help them to develop strategies to strengthen their relationships with their partners and stakeholders, including the government. He adds that, by working with the U of A, Mzumbe University's mission of strengthening its service to the community is "well served."

The faculty's relationship with Mzumbe is not new, says Richardson. Two faculty members had worked at Mzumbe previously on math and science education projects. The U of A, and the faculty in particular, was Mzumbe's choice "because they knew us," he said.

As a follow up to this visit, the faculty will send one member to Tanzania for two weeks to work with the university's administrators in furthering the development of their strategic plans. This type of partnership is somewhat different from the type of work that Richardson's office usually does, but he notes that faculties across campus find themselves "engaged in different areas," especially in the context of global education and engagement.

"The university has an increasing presence in east Africa," said Richardson. "We're quite delighted to be part of this project."

**By developing a strong link with our stakeholders, the students will have a better understanding of the situation of [Tanzania].**

Magishi Mgasa, visiting from Tanzania

broaden their relationships with Tanzanian industry as a means to help graduates seeking employment, but also for research and funding. He notes that student involvement in these relationships will be beneficial to their employment opportunities and their civic engagement.

"By developing a strong link with our stakeholders, the students will have a better understanding of the situation in the country," said Mgasa, "and when they go to work,



## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Marion Pritchard, whose name was drawn as part of folio's April 8 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Pritchard correctly identified the photo in question as the Chemical and Materials Engineering Building. For her correct answer, Pritchard has won a University of Alberta-issued stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A-embazoned bookmark.

Up for grabs this week is yet another U of A-issued stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A-embazoned bookmark. To win, simply email what building the photo is of and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, April 29, and you will be entered into the draw.

## Honorary degrees

*Continued from page 1*

Louise Hayes is an influential agent of change committed to a brighter future for Canada's Aboriginal peoples. She contributed to the creation of the first housing support programs in rural and remote communities, and assisted in the development of the Native Council of Canada. A community builder who has served on many volunteer boards including Big Brothers, Big Sisters, she currently chairs the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation. She will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 10 a.m. on June 9.

Greg Mortenson, co-author of #1 New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea* and co-founder of the non-profit Central Asia Institute, is a champion for improved access to education. His work to establish more than 170 schools in rural regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, serving more than 78,000 children, including 52,000 girls, has earned him the Sitara-e-Pakistan, the country's highest civilian honour. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 3 p.m. on June 9.

Austin Mardon is an inspiring advocate for the mentally ill. A scholar and Antarctic explorer diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1992, he has worked tirelessly to eliminate the stigma associated with psychiatric disorders. As a member of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, his work has had a major impact on public policy and public perception. He is a member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of the CM Hincks Award, the highest award given by the Canadian Mental Health Association. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 10 a.m. on June 10.

Bunny Ferguson has transformed public conversations around family business and social innovation. Founding chair of the Alberta Business Family Institute, founding director of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and director of the Norlien Foundation, she is a tireless advocate for community-university engagement, health care excellence and educational leadership. A member of the Order of Canada, she will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 3 p.m. on June 13.

John Chin Sun Lau led one of the most impressive turnarounds in Canadian business history. Under his leadership, Husky Energy Inc. grew from a market value of \$350 million in 1993 to \$26 billion in 2008, earning him recognition on Harvard Business Review's list of the Top 50 Best-Performing CEO's in the world. Named an honorary chief by four First Nations communities, he is a champion of economic development, community wellness and education. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 10 a.m. on June 14.

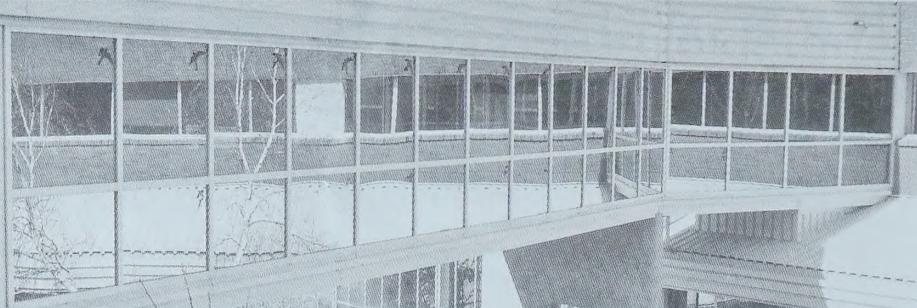
Karen Luker is a nursing scholar whose pioneering research on cancer survivorship has led to the design of new services to support people affected by cancer. She also initiated groundbreaking work developing training programs for lay health workers in South Africa. Dean of the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Manchester, she is recognized around the world as a pioneer in advancing academic nursing. She will receive an honorary doctor of science degree at 3 p.m. on June 14.

Charlie Kakotok Evalik champions a transformative vision for Canada's North. A central contributor to the settlement of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the creation of the new territory of Nunavut, he is President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Chair and CEO of the Nunavut Resources Corporation. He is a strong advocate for leadership roles for Inuit as decision-makers in development that respects both the land and its people. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at 10 a.m. on June 15.

Efim Zelmanov is one of only 48 individuals honoured with a Fields Medal, considered to be the Nobel Prize of mathematics. A professor of mathematics at the University of California, San Diego, he is considered one of the great algebraists of the 20th century. A member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and editor of several major mathematical journals, he is an inspiring researcher, teacher and mentor. He will receive an honorary doctor of science at 3 p.m. on June 15.



The pedway linking the Agriculture Building and the Students' Union Building.



Michael Davis-Vann

## President's Society launched to better connect U of A donors

Michael Brown

**O**n April 1, the Office of Advancement launched The President's Society, a new program for alumni and friends of the university who give \$1,000 or more annually. The society aims to connect donors with the people and programs they support.

"The President's Society will be a recognition on the part of the university of the many people who have supported and contributed to the university," said Jim Edwards, inaugural honorary chair of the society. "It will encourage members of that group to be acquainted to each other and with specific things that their support of the university can bring about."

Edwards, a long-time Edmonton member of parliament and a U of A alumnus, has served as chair of the U of A Board of Governors, is a former member of the president's think-tank initiative and played the role of moderator of the university's

Prime Ministers Conversation Series, which served as the centrepiece of the U of A's Centenary celebrations.

According to Edwards, whose family has been an ardent financial supporters of the U of A for decades, the impetus for the club came when Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart, in donating their Edmonton home and the surrounding lands to the university last year, surpassed \$100 million in lifetime donations and matching funds.

"In donating his home, Sandy had some well-chosen words, essentially issuing a challenge to people who have a positive regard for the university to do something," said Edwards. "He was laying down the gauntlet of his own example."

"What I want to do is to make a personal commitment to university donors is that, to the best of my ability, I will follow the Mactaggart's example and encourage others to do the same."

Edwards says his role will be to simply connect President's Society



members with each other and the programs they support, as well as with the university's deans, provost Carl Amrhein and president Indira Samarasekera. Although many of the particulars of the society are still in their infancy, Edwards says he envisions the society as a vehicle where the university's many philanthropists come together, perhaps once a year, and exchange points of view and cite examples of why they are supporting the university, which may, in turn, strike a chord with their peers.

"Simply put, I am here to provide a little bit of leadership to people who have already made commit-

ments to the university, but haven't thought of some of the more creative things they could be doing," said Edwards.

Currently, there are roughly 2,000 President's Society members who gave \$1,000 or more last year, which amounted to more than \$12 million. According to O'Neil Outar, the U of A's chief advancement officer, the impact of these gifts is enormous, as they support library acquisitions, student athletes, scholarships and bursaries, global education initiatives, undergraduate research and extra-curricular learning opportunities that shape the student



Jim Edwards

experience at the university and drive breakthrough research discoveries.

For those interested in learning more about the President's Society, please contact Edwards via the Office of Advancement at 780-492-7761. ■

## Taking time for the university's town hall

### the open door

Indira Samarasekera  
President and Vice-Chancellor

**A**pril is a busy month on campus. Many of us are hurrying to finish or mark various assignments before the end of classes. Then, the stress level turns up another notch as students prepare for final exams and faculty and staff rush to meet various administrative deadlines associated with the wrap up of another term. So I was delighted that more than 300 students, staff and faculty were able to take time for the spring town hall on Tuesday afternoon. My thanks to all who were able to attend; for those who could not, videos and a podcast of the discussion are available on the U of A website and at *Colloquy*, the U of A's blog.

As always happens at our town halls, a wide range of topics was covered from the budget to the academic plan to health and wellness on campus. I believe it's worth noting that, in spite of the demands of this time of year, several students came to the town hall and wasted no time in showing me and the rest of the audience that they're engaged, not only in their own learning but also with the broader issues facing all institutions of higher learning.

What are we doing to encourage better undergraduate teaching at the U of A? How can the U of A make undergraduate research opportunities more available and financially viable? How can international students take greatest advantage of all that the U of A can offer? Can the university guarantee students a job after graduation? That last one elicited a few chuckles but we shouldn't laugh—campuses such as University of Regina

have launched programs that do guarantee that students will either find career-related employment within six months or receive a tuition waiver for an additional year of undergraduate study.

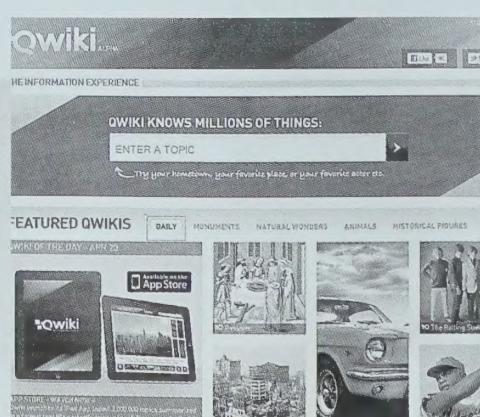
The U of A may not guarantee students employment, but this question, along with the others, highlights the fact that students are very concerned about the future and the quality of their education. It's important that we take those concerns seriously and we do. I was able to highlight several of the recent initiatives to boost student engagement and experience that many of you have worked hard put in place: community service-learning, a one-stop student services portal, improved student web services, increased undergraduate research opportunities, internships, career fairs, and so much more. These efforts matter—to students and to the overall quality of the educational experience we offer at the U of A.

There is, as the students' questions underscore, more to do and our new academic plan reflects how we aim to get there. But, the very fact that our students are asking the kind of critical and timely questions that challenge us to do better suggests we must already be doing a few things right. Preparing students for future employment is important, but nurturing their critical thinking skills, giving them space to discover, voice and refine their ideas, and fostering active citizenship are the more vital and lasting aims of an excellent U of A undergraduate education. ■

surf  
City

Multimedia takes on a whole new meaning on [www.qwiki.com](http://www.qwiki.com). Like Wikipedia, this site is populated by user-generated content, but—unlike most other websites—qwiki provides an aural representation of a search subject. Simply type a topic in the search box, and a wealth of information is presented. In addition, you can click through the images presented that accompany the voice over, and move more in depth through your research.

Featured qwikis change minute by minute on the homepage and there is an opportunity to sign up for a "qwiki of the day," which make sense, because "qwiki knows millions of things."



# U of A librarian honoured with international award

Michael Davies-Venn

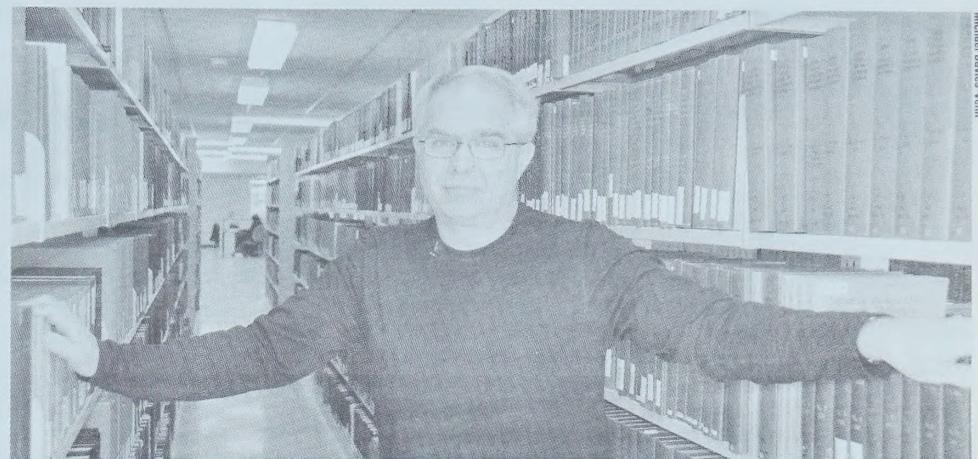
**F**or close to three decades, Randy Reichardt has been helping faculty and students traverse millions of bits of data to get to a specific piece of information. The University of Alberta's Research Services librarian says he has come to enjoy the "eureka" moment when someone he is helping navigate a maze of books and journals finally makes the connection that would help them move along on their project. That has been the source of his energy for 28 years.

"Students come to me and, in many cases, they do not know where to start looking or they're lost," Reichardt said. "In the process of showing them how to do what they have to do, the light bulb goes on—'got it!'—that's the beginning and the end—and that's what matters."

"I've seen 10,000 of those light bulbs and it's so rewarding when you see the students react. And when they come back and say, 'thank you so much,' that helps."

In June, recognition for Reichardt's work while exclusively working with the chemical, material, mechanical and engineering management departments will come from colleagues worldwide. On their recommendations, the U.S.-based Special Libraries Association will honour Reichardt with its SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year Award. When he arrives in Philadelphia this summer to receive the award, he says he will be the first Canadian to have won the award.

One of the letters recommending him for the honour reads, "As a librarian in academia, [Reichardt] has the ability and opportunity to provide training and direction to the next generation of engineering." But Reichardt has done more than that, he says. He also advocates for the departments he works with on a number of issues, ranging improving access to databases owned by publishing houses for students to negotiating with vendors for the university to get the best price point. But he says the accomplishment he's most proud so far has been obtaining access to ISO standards.



Randy Reichardt will receive the Special Libraries Association's SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year award in June.

An engineering student, for example, wanting to develop a piece of equipment, would need to work with those standards to ensure, among other things, that their product will be compatible with others in that particular industry. Reichardt says the university used to buy the standards individually and access was limited to printed copies, but he has helped change that.

"We now have on this campus access to more than 58,000 standards online because I've worked hard to build up the online access, making it

easier for students and professors—not just in engineering but also in clothing and textiles and biology—to have access to standards that are most critical to them," he said. "For example, a lot of research is done about fire at this university, so researchers who are working on clothing and textiles also love having access to these standards."

He says he is devoted to the students, faculty and staff he works with. "They have my undying love. They are all fantastic and they treat me like a colleague."

Reichardt recounted a story with a student who needed a book that was not available at the library. Reichardt asked the student to get it through interlibrary loan because at the time, the university libraries did not have a copy of the book. But he promised to acquire a permanent copy for the libraries when possible. The student wrote back saying, "I'm so glad to hear from you, you're simply amazing, thank you very much."

"All I did was order a book for him. But that's the golden moment." ■

# Change made easy by staffer who keeps university on the move



Lyne Boucher measures out a space in advance of a move. (Photo: Michael Brown)

Michael Brown

**A**s almost anyone can attest, the very act of moving—the packing, the cleaning, the lifting and the unpacking, as well as the overall destruction and chaos—can erase all the original excitement and perceived benefits of the experience, and leave all involved wondering if it was worth it.

That is, unless your move is carried out by Lyne Boucher, move administrator within Facilities and Operations' Design and Technological Services, who co-ordinates moves of people, equipment and/or furniture.

"The main criteria about this job is a desire to please your customers," said Boucher. "These people have full-time jobs; they don't have time to worry about all these little details."

"I am here to make the moving experience as painless as possible."

And the details are many. Not only does Boucher measure out and design the space and facilitate the actual move, but also co-ordinates resources to take care of cleanup, signage, any power and phone needs, and even

makes sure the mail finds its way.

"I look after details you wouldn't even think of," she said. "I also try to minimize the disruption. Quite often people will pack up their things on a Friday, I will do moves over the weekend, and they come to work Monday and their new space is ready to go."

## staff spotlight

At the outset of a move, Boucher says people are anxious, but the rewards are many.

"I get a lot of thank-you cards and gifts," said Boucher. "I'm also lucky to have a great team and so many resources that I can tap into that you just wouldn't find anywhere else."

"In most places you don't have a carpenter on staff; you don't have an HVAC person available, but I can phone control and I can phone security. I set off alarms all the time—they know me by first name—but I can get it fixed right away. In a corporate environment, you are at the mercy of out-

side consultants and outside resources, so my position at the university is very helpful."

Boucher's says there isn't much to prepare a person for a position like hers, which she says she has perfected at "the school of hard knocks," over her nearly three years at the U of A.

"My first job was to move 70 people out of Chemical and Materials Engineering and into the Electrical and Computer Engineering and Research Facility and the Natural Resources Engineering Facility," said Boucher. "I was dealing with labs with state-of-the-art research and equipment that is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. It was a lot of stress, but it worked out great."

Working at the university also has advantages for Boucher that go beyond the satisfaction she gets from her job.

"Both my daughters go here, so I get to have lunch and see them from time to time, which is nice," she said. "The U of A is such a great environment. I get to ride my bike to work and I take a walk every day, and just like that, you're in the river valley. It's phenomenal." ■

# U of A's dentistry school opens wide to special-needs oral care

Quinn Phillips

**T**he University of Alberta dentistry school is doing everything it can to ensure its students are well versed in special-needs dentistry care.

Bill Preshing, professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, leads a post-graduate residency program, which sees four dental residents work in the U of A Hospital's dental clinic. They see patients with a variety of health issues, including hospital in-patients, as well as people with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

"These residents recognized they had received little exposure, through a standard undergraduate dental program, to this broad range of patients who need help," said Preshing. "These students want a broader range of experience managing people with these conditions."

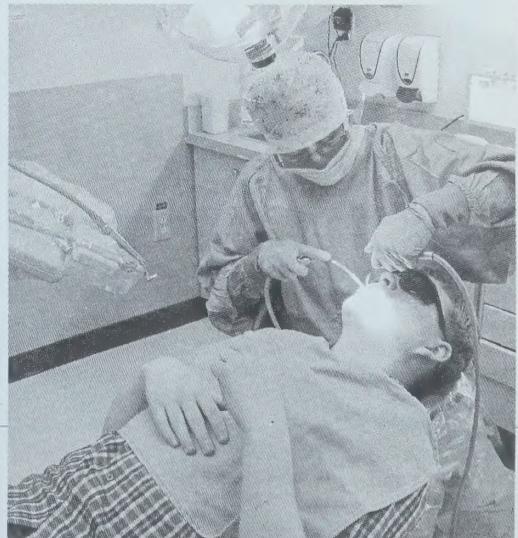
This residency program is one-of-a-kind in Canada because it is two-sided. Residents get a chance to work in the U of A Hospital's dental clinic with the special-needs patients but also work in the department's clinic to expand their dental skills.

"The dentistry program [at the hospital] tends to be pretty

basic, so the students aren't really expanding their skills to a great degree," said Preshing. "With this set up, the residents can get the best of both worlds—expanding their dental skills while they're also getting experience with a broad range of special-care patients."

Preshing says the year-long residency program teaches residents valuable techniques for treating special-needs patients, including the use of sedation to relieve any apprehension or fear. Beyond the skill acquisition, however, Preshing says that just being able to treat these patients in community settings is vital, as these patients are vastly under served. "We have patients coming in from Saskatchewan, northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories and northern British Columbia," said Preshing. "We've expanded so much over the last 15 to 20 years; I think, more and more, U of A dentistry is becoming known as the place to go." ■

**A post-grad residency program in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry allows dental residents to see patients with a variety of health issues, including hospital in-patients, as well as people with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.**



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(Left) U of A printmaker Liz Ingram inspects the installation of her latest piece in Calgary (above) that explores her fascination with water.

## Leaving a life-sized water mark on Alberta

Michael Davies-Venn

**L**iz Ingram has a curious fascination with water. Her interest in our relationship with the element, its healing values and importance to our being, influences much of her artwork. Perhaps in keeping with that inquisitiveness, her latest work, *Confluence Through the Looking Glass*, sees water at its core.

"At our youthful age, we understand more our connection with water—that we're made of water, but as we grow and mature, we lose that connection," said Ingram. "I'm trying to bring that experience back, using imagery of our interconnectedness with water."

The University of Alberta printmaking professor says the 30-feet-wide by 17-feet-high piece, unveiled April 15 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary, is the largest piece she has ever created and represents an historical cornerstone in her career.

For *Confluence Through the Looking Glass* Ingram photographed bodies in water in all forms imaginable. She also took a team of dancers and two canoes to a lake. With the boats anchored, the dancers began leaping into the air, splashing the surface of the water while Ingram, perched atop a ladder planted in the shallow waters of the lake, directed and photographed the dancers.

"I've been shooting figures in water for years, in bathtubs and underwater, for example. But this was like choreographing; it was an

unusual situation," Ingram said. "The dancers are not professional and I chose ordinary people because I did not want it to be a performance in the ordinary sense of the word. I want people to connect and relate with these figures in water."

**"I really believe that water is something we need to protect, respect and love, and I don't think we do so. When we protect water, we protect ourselves. Water is the source of our being."**

Liz Ingram

water and air."

Ingram won a province-wide competition by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Alberta Jubilee Auditoria Society to create the work. This is her second permanent piece prominently displayed in an Alberta landmark. *Touching Water: Anticipation and Memory*, was the first and is on permanent display at the Edmonton International Airport. Water is also the main theme of that piece.

"I really believe that water is something we need to protect, respect and love, and I don't think we do so," she says. "When we protect water, we protect ourselves. Water is the source of our being."

She says most people may recall the joy water brings them, from playing in puddles in spring, at the lake or in a bath. "[*Confluence Through the Looking Glass*] is a people piece, and in some ways, it is more of a public piece than much of my usual works," said Ingram. "Without watering down the content, I have tried to create a piece that's accessible to a broad audience."

Many will see the piece in coming years, and Ingram says it is suitably placed to allow patrons to the auditorium an opportunity to reflect water and walk away inspired. "I hope that people take away a feeling of connection to water and our environment, and that the exhibit provides an uplifting experience," she said. "There's incredible power in the human spirit. Sometimes we forget about that, and water helps bring that power out."



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# Four engineering professors win prestigious APEGGA awards

Richard Cairney

**F**our Faculty of Engineering professors have won prestigious awards from the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta for research, teaching, leadership and early achievements.

John Nychka, Murray Gray, Tian Tang and Wilsun Xu were all recognized at the annual APEGGA Summit Awards gala in Calgary April 14.

Nychka, a materials engineering professor, was awarded the Excellence in Education Award. "This is a great honour, and I am thrilled to be recognized for doing something I love," said Nychka. "I am very thankful to APEGGA, my nominators, colleagues, students and the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta."

Nychka developed and organized the U of A's first engineering workshop on teaching assessment and serves as a teaching mentor—recently taking on this role university-wide. He is co-chair of the Department of Chemical and Materials

Engineering's teaching enhancement committee.

A professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Gray was awarded the Centennial Leadership Award, which is presented to a member of APEGGA who has attained the highest distinction relating to the science of engineering as an executive or director of an outstanding project or ongoing enterprise.

Gray has long recognized that sustainable development of the oilsands requires technological breakthroughs to create economically viable and environmentally conscious methods for the mining, extraction and upgrading of Canada's oilsands. He played a key role in establishing the interdisciplinary, multi-university Centre for Oil Sands Innovation.

Tang, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was recognized with the Early Accomplishment Award.

Tang leads a team of six graduate students researching mechanical and interfacial behaviours at nanoscale level and in biological systems. Her findings are being used in important engineering



(L-R) Tian Tang, Wilson Xu, Murray Gray and John Nychka won APEGGA Summit Awards April 14 in Calgary.

applications, such as the development of new methods to process carbon nanotubes and the design of synthetic polymers as gene delivery carriers to treat cancer.

Xu, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, received APEGGA's Research Excellence Award for his eight years of research and development on anti-islanding protection methods for distributed generation (DG) generators to protect electrical workers.

In DG systems, power is produced in many

smaller energy sources and pooled on a main grid. When an outage occurs at a substation, "islanding" may occur around DG generators that are still producing electricity. This can be hazardous to workers trying to repair the grid.

Xu and his research team are now looking to change how consumers monitor their home's electricity usage. They have determined that individual appliances give off distinct usage signatures in a house's wiring. Analyzing these changes in patterns can determine which appliances are running and how much power each uses. ■

## Lowering the Sonic boom on the competition

Jamie Hanlon

**T**o say that Mike Holmes and Maya Cieszynska don't believe in sticking to the script is not an exaggeration.

Just hours before they were to present their ideas at the 2011 Canada's Next Top Ad Executive competition in Toronto, they made changes to their presentation. Obviously, the gamble paid off. Holmes and Cieszynska, students in the Alberta School of Business at the U of A, beat out nine other teams of business students across Canada at the final in Toronto March 29, marking the first time students from the University of Alberta have come away with the title.

"I think we walked in a little scared, a little uncertain," said Holmes. "We were stunned at the reaction we got, actually. We got some very positive feedback."

As part of the competition, participants had to develop a multi-dimensional marketing campaign that would build awareness and help launch a new compact automobile, the Chevrolet Sonic.

The win means that both students walk away from the competition with brand new Sonics, once the vehicle rolls off the production line later this year, as well as a wealth of opportunities. Cieszynska, who graduates this year, has already been interviewing in Toronto; Holmes has another year to graduate but is sure that the win will still be a valuable addition to his resume.

"Just being able to say that you came in first in this competition holds tremendous weight with people in the industry," said Holmes. "I couldn't ask for anything more."

While this is not the first time that the two have teamed up together, with Cieszynska graduating, it will most likely be the last. With a year of university still to go, Holmes jokingly wonders whether he should quit while he is ahead. "There is a part of me that is tempted to throw in another submission for next year." ■



Mike Holmes and Maya Cieszynska became the first students from the U of A to win Canada's Next Top Ad Executive competition.

## Researcher finds the psychological effects of identity theft linger long after the initial financial blow

Judy Monchuk

**I**n January 2010, Joanne McNeal received a series of persistent messages about her email account—seemingly from the account provider itself—seeking "verification" of her name, address and password. Late one night, when yet another warning notice arrived, she let her guard down and surrendered the data.

"I certainly learned how fast your information can be just blown wide open," says McNeal, who teaches in the U of A's Faculty of Education. Soon, financial appeals ostensibly from her were made via email to family and professional colleagues around the world.

One of the fastest growing crimes in the world, law enforcement officials say identity theft is thought to be as profitable as drug related offences, estimated at between \$10 and \$30 billion annually in Canada. But the violation of privacy goes deeper than just finances.

McNeal found that even her Facebook account was compromised, and, in a chilling twist, several of her friends reported carrying on Facebook conversations with the imposter. "You just feel violated, like you've been opened up, drawn and quartered."

These feelings aren't unusual, says Jessica Van Vliet, an assistant professor in counselling psychology at the U of A and one of the few academics to have studied the psychological impact of identity

theft. Van Vliet recently conducted an exploratory study on the experiences of individuals who were victims of identity theft. Participants who recounted their experience during in-depth research interviews expressed a pervasive sense of vulnerability each time they used a credit card or a bank machine. Some participants also felt like they were being treated as criminals when they attempted to clear their names.

"It was very clear that most participants in the study no longer felt safe

conducting everyday

financial transactions

that most of us take for granted," says Van Vliet. Most of the identity theft victims felt they were taking appropriate precautions to safeguard their personal information and had no idea how that data fell into the wrong hands.

The lack of specificity makes it difficult for identity theft victims to attain any closure and move forward. "No matter how well they monitor their financial records for the rest of their lives, they may still feel vulnerable," Van Vliet says.

Very few of the people in Van Vliet's study had sought any counselling. But that doesn't mean the experience isn't

traumatic, only that the possible lingering effects of identity theft are poorly understood.

"Without acknowledging the psychological distress often associated with identity theft, people may minimize their own suffering," says Van Vliet. Another consideration is that society often doesn't believe that victims are blameless, feeling often that they must have done something wrong to bring this upon themselves. "It's terrifying to think you can do everything right and still be a victim," she adds.

Since falling prey to identity theft, McNeal's awareness is piqued, ready to protect her from schemes in the future. "Certainly, you learn that you need to be vigilant and to not discuss personal information or passwords." She now shares her identity theft experience with her class of future teachers in the hope that the classroom discussion it prompts will serve as a wake-up call for the students, too.

"Most of us are too trusting," she says. "When something like this happens, you have to learn from the experience." ■

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# Study shows care giving harming employment, careers

Michel Proulx

**C**aring for an aging parent or a family member with a disability or chronic ailment is becoming a regular part of life for an increasing number of Canadians and it's affecting caregivers' own health, employment and finances, research reveals.

About 2.3 of the 3.8 million Canadians aged 45 and over who provide unpaid care to a family member or friend are employed, said Janet Fast, professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Human Ecology, who co-led the research team, along with Donna Lero of the University of Guelph.

"While care giving is a positive experience for many, people often have to miss work or reduce work hours and forego job opportunities to provide care," she said. "This has economic costs for caregivers, their families and employers."

**While care giving is a positive experience for many, people often have to miss work or reduce work hours and forego job opportunities to provide care."**

Janet Fast

Employers bear the costs of care giving through staff absenteeism, lost productivity and recruitment and training of new personnel, said the researchers.

"It represents an enormous loss of productivity to employers and to the economy in general—the equivalent of 157,000 full-time employees annually," said Fast, who added that Canadians and policy-makers need to better understand this phenomenon and its impact on paid employment.

The researchers analyzed Statistics Canada's 2007 General Social Survey—the most recent data available—to compile a snapshot of employment consequences of unpaid care giving across the country. The data showed that, of the 2.3 million employed Canadians aged 45 and older, 37 per cent of women and 28 per cent of men are unpaid caregivers, and 40 per cent care for two or more people. Employed caregivers spent on average the equivalent of one full workday per week providing direct care and support. Caregiving has a greater effect on women's employment, earnings and long-term economic security more for women than for men.

Fast says work-family conflict continues to be a serious problem in Canada and that the study findings have important implications for public policy and business practice. ■

## In rehabbing a bad heart, 'exercise is a wonder drug that hasn't been bottled'

Sandra Pysklywyc

**A** new study by researchers at the University of Alberta shows that, for best results in stable patients after a heart attack, early and prolonged exercise is the key to the best outcomes.

Study co-authors Mark Haykowsky, a researcher in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Alex Clark, researcher in the Faculty of Nursing, along with fellow U of A researchers Don Schopflocher in the School of Public Health and Ian Paterson in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, as well as colleagues from Duke, Stanford and the University of British Columbia, reviewed more than 20 years of trials. The team found that stable patients who have suffered heart attacks see more heart-performance benefits when starting an exercise program one week after the heart at-



Alex Clark

tack, rather than waiting a month or longer to begin rehabilitation.

"While it's been shown that exercise has a favourable effect on heart function, it's also important to dispel the idea that what the heart needs is rest," said Haykowsky.

The study shows that, in fact, the heart will strengthen with exercise sooner and with continued exercise over a longer period of time.

"In the past, patients in Canada and the United States have been told to wait for one month before beginning their exercise treatment and this treatment typically only goes on for about three months," said Clark.

But patients who begin an exercise program one week after their heart attack were found to have the best heart performance. For those who waited to begin their exercise rehabilitation program, the results showed that, "for every week that a patient delayed his

or her exercise treatment, he or she would have to train for the equivalent of one month longer to get similar benefits," said Clark. "Our findings suggest that at least six months of exercise is the most beneficial."

Exercise in this study is defined as aerobic exercise in a group setting to build up exercise capacity.

The researchers reviewed both benefits and harms of exercise. The authors say there was no evidence in the study to suggest that beginning an exercise program earlier than the typical waiting period had any detrimental effects.

"In the 1970's, health-care professionals were telling patients not to move for three months after a heart attack. Our findings suggest that stable patients need not wait a month to start exercising in a cardiac-rehabilitation setting," said Clark.

Given that, in Canada, only one-third of patients are referred to

rehabilitation after a heart attack and then only 20 per cent then attend, Haykowsky says the key to the best outcome is for patients to not only be referred to rehabilitation, but also to be referred early, participate and stick with the program.

"Exercise is a wonder drug that hasn't been bottled," he said.

The study was recently published in the online journal *Trials*. ■

**While it's been shown that exercise has a favourable effect on heart function, it's also important to dispel the idea that what the heart needs is rest."**

Mark Haykowsky

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# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to [www.expressnews.ualberta.ca](http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca).

## Medicine and dentistry honours teaching and research

Teaching, research and professorial collegiality were celebrated during the latest installment of the Inaugural Professorial Lectures held April 11 in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

Faculty members, learners and staff heard professors Adrian Wagg and Michael Hendzel talk about their current research and how it relates to health and well-being.

Excellence in teaching was also celebrated as Scott North, winner of a 3M National Teaching Fellowship, was recognized by his colleagues and former students. A professor in the Department of Oncology, North creates simulated clinical situations in which actors represent patients—thus giving students the opportunity to conduct physical examinations and to rehearse dealing with the difficult decisions associated with an oncology practice. He also invites alternative medicine practitioners and terminal cancer patients and their families to talk to the students about the healing and grieving process.

"Dr. North is an exceptionally good teacher," said Fraser Brenneis, vice-dean of education. "He has made a significant difference to our undergraduate programs and our students are better informed, more compassionate and safer practitioners because of his efforts."

"We are very proud to acknowledge Dr. North as the fourth member of this faculty to win a 3M award," said Brenneis.

## Nanotech sector getting support from new program

A new program to support Alberta's growing microsystems and nanotechnology industry has been launched, with up to \$6.4 million in funding for private industry and universities.

Called nanoBridge, the program will help develop prototyping and capacity development in this high-tech sector, enabling Alberta universities and companies to advance microsystems and nanotechnology commercial opportunities.

"nanoBridge is all about early-stage commercialization—getting new microsystem and nanotechnology ideas out of the lab and started down the path towards the marketplace," said nanoBridge chair and Faculty of Engineering associate dean (research and planning) Steven Dew.

"We help fund the development of prototype devices that secure intellectual property, attract initial investors and demonstrate capabilities to regulators and prospective customers. There is a fundamental commercialization gap that nanoBridge is helping get nano inventions across."

Dew said nanoBridge is "a pan-Alberta initiative open to nanotechnology projects from across the province serving both public institutions and small or medium-sized companies."

## Big Brothers Big Sisters mentorship program flourishes

More than 150 elementary and junior high-school students in Edmonton have had medical and dental students as their mentors, thanks to a great idea by a medical student three years ago.

Peter MacPherson, a volunteer at Big Brothers Big Sisters who was in his first year of medicine at the University of Alberta, approached BBBS about starting a mentorship program that would match elementary kids and medical students. Shortly after that discussion, a group of medical students approached the charity to inquire about starting a junior-high mentorship program as well. Today, both programs are so popular that kids in younger grades can't wait to join the programs when school starts in the fall.

"We wanted to address the tremendous need for mentors in Edmonton," said MacPherson. "An impressive number of medical students got behind this idea and volunteered as big brothers and big sisters."

"This partnership fosters an interest in post-secondary education from a very young age and encourages kids to explore their dreams and passions."

"We have a lot of great stories about what a difference this program has made," says Chelsie McFarlane, the BBBS caseworker in charge of one of the mentorship programs. "We have one elementary student who said the advice his medical-student mentor has given him has made him stronger and more confident when interacting with his peers in various situations. That is wonderful to see."

## Professor given Korean university's highest honour

U of A professor Abel Cadenillas has been appointed "World Class University Distinguished Professor of Financial Engineering" by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of South Korea.

The South Korean government created the World Class University program to transform their universities into world-class universities. As part of their grant applications, Korean universities must nominate outstanding world-class researchers who would do research and give lectures on their campuses.

Cadenillas is a professor in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. An acclaimed researcher who has done outstanding research on optimal risk-sharing, optimal consumption-investment and optimal portfolio management, Cadenillas' work looks at when there are taxes and transaction costs, the optimal control of the exchange rate, optimal manager compensation, optimal risk and dividend policies, optimal control of inventories, optimal stochastic control and business cycles. ■



Abel Cadenillas

## 'There's a Heifer in Your Tank' hits the road

Ken Mathewson

**A**nyone who ever suggested that agriculture students are lacking creativity or a sense of humour obviously never attended a performance of "There's a Heifer in Your Tank."

The production, which is currently in its seventh year, features students of the Animal Science 200 class performing uproarious videos on a variety of agricultural topics, tied together with live performances by teaching assistants and learning coaches.

There's no question that this is not the traditional type of classroom environment. The presentation last month in the Fort Saskatchewan Shell Theatre saw students dressed in costumes ranging from Bill Nye the Science Guy and Justin Bieber to walking, talking masses of cow manure and everything in between.

Frank Robinson, dean of students and professor of poultry science, started There's a Heifer in Your Tank in 2004 as a way to get students engaged and excited about agriculture. He decided to make the class research based: students would find the answers to intriguing questions about animals and food production and present them in less orthodox format than a paper or class presentation.

"Originally, it was more of a conference-style presentation," said project co-ordinator Dana Penrice. "But asking

open-ended kinds of questions inspires a lot of creativity. After a few hilarious jokes, it just evolved into skits and now it's really caught on. Around 60 per cent of the classes aren't even studying agriculture," said Penrice. "They take it for the experience as opposed to the science."

Although no one insists the presentations be comical, it appears to be an unspoken rule. Students used a wide range of creative approaches, including movie spoofs, phony news broadcasts, wild apparel and mock schoolyard fights to pass on the answers to obscure agricultural questions.

Beyond encouraging students to research the topics, the project helps them to socialize and get to know one another, say organizers. "It's a fun community, which is what professors Frank [Robinson] and Martin [Zuidhof] wanted to get going right off the bat," said second-year animal health student Chase McGowan.

"People who I didn't really know but recognized—I was able to start a conversation with them based on things we were doing in the class, like what kind of a dance we were planning on doing."

"Everybody opens up really quickly," agreed Danielle Tolley, a first-year pre-vet student who starred in the opening skit.

"If you're shy, you're not going to be shy for long in that class."

Students were remarkably comfortable speaking to a packed 550-seat theatre—which included MLA and former minister of agriculture Doug Horner—a phenomenon Penrice attributes to the comedic nature of the performances.

"It is pretty scary for some students, when you tell them in the first class that they're going to be putting on this show," she said. "But the important thing is just to let them know that it's not all that serious and to make sure they're having fun." ■



Students from the March 29 Heifer in Your Tank production discuss the similarities between cow udders and lungs.

## University leader in disability services dies

Folio Staff

**T**he University of Alberta community is mourning the passing of a loyal staffer, a beloved friend and colleague. Recently retired Marion Vosáhlo, founding and only director of Specialized Support & Disability Services at the U of A for more than 30 years, died March 24 after complications related to a long battle with lupus. She was 63.



Marion Vosáhlo

had the good fortune to work with her. She led with passion and humour and a genuine interest in the lives of her staff and the students she served.

In an interview with Folio in 2009, Vosáhlo said about her work in creating Specialized Support & Disability Services: "It all started with the students. They would come to us and say, 'this is what I'm doing; this is where I'm going; this is what my needs are.'"

Under her guidance, Specialized Support and Disability Services has grown from one employee helping a handful of students to a team of 16, plus an army of casual

volunteers giving support to more than 650 students.

"All of these things have grown out of certain needs and requirements and our aim has always been to go as far as we can with something," she said.

"Marion considered the students that she interacted with, and her SSDS staff members, as family," says Dean of Students Frank Robinson. "Her aspirations for each helped Marion craft success plans that served this campus very well for many years and into the future."

"The role that Marion played in helping thousands of students is immense and is highly appreciated."

Donations in Vosáhlo can be made to the University of Alberta's Marion Vosáhlo Memorial Bursary. ■

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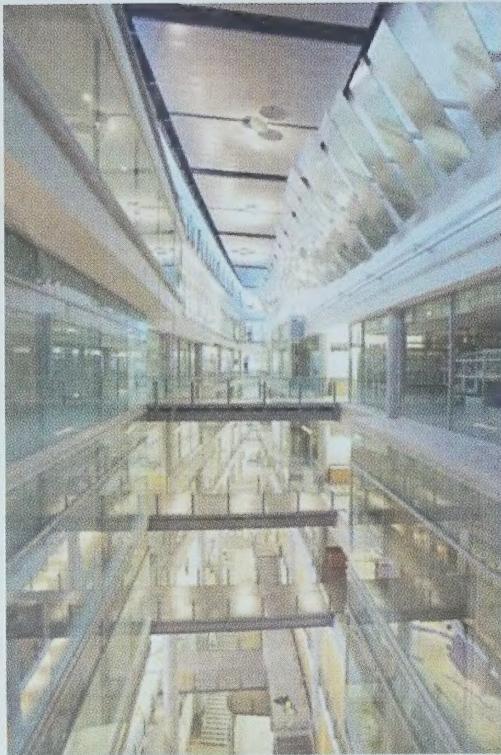
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## *A spectacle* to behold

The Faculty of Science moved into the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science during the first weekend of April and at last the university community is able to take a look inside the building that has replaced the old V Wing on historic Quad.

With more than 1,039 tonnes of steel, 825,000 cubic feet of concrete, three football fields of interior glass and 17,000 lamps, the new face of science has some impressive statistics behind its creation.

The move-in schedule for occupants continues into spring and the facilities will be completely ready to welcome the class of 2011–12 in the fall.

